

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claim 2 is cancelled.

1. (Currently Amended) A needed nonwoven article comprising:

(a) a moldable article having a first edge, a second edge, a midline therebetween and a width extending between said first and second edges;

(b) a plurality of needed intertwined fibers within said moldable article, said fibers being provided in a plurality of zones within said moldable article, said plurality of zones being arranged across the width of said article, said zones being adjacent each other and extending generally from said first edge across the width and to said second edge of said article, wherein the density of fibers within said respective zones varies in a gradient across the article from said first edge to said second edge,

further wherein the density of the fibers in said article is:

i) greater in said zones positioned near the first edge and second edge of said article, and

ii) less in said zones positioned in the general vicinity of the midline of said article.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) The nonwoven article according to Claim 2, wherein said zones are connected by the intertwining of the fibers between said zones.

4. (Currently Amended) The nonwoven article according to Claim [2] 1, wherein the fibers forming the nonwoven comprise a plurality of high melt polyester fibers and a plurality of low melt polyester fibers.

5. (Currently Amended) The nonwoven article according to Claim 2 1 , wherein the fibers forming the nonwoven comprise a plurality of high melt polyester fibers and a plurality of core sheath polyester fibers having a low melt polyester sheath.
6. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 5, wherein the low melt polyester sheath has a melt temperature from about 110°C to about 180°C.
7. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 5, wherein the core sheath polyester fibers comprise from about 40% to about 90% by weight of the fibers forming the nonwoven.
8. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 5, wherein the high melt polyester fibers comprise from about 40% to about 10% by weight of the fibers forming the nonwoven.
9. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 1, wherein the nonwoven includes a first zone with a first density of fibers therein, and a second zone in which the density of fibers therein varies across the second zone.
10. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 9, wherein the first zone and the second zone are connected by the intertwining of the fibers between the first zone and the second zone.
11. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 9, wherein the fibers forming the nonwoven comprise a plurality of high melt polyester fibers and a plurality of low melt polyester fibers.

12. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 9, wherein the fibers forming the nonwoven comprise a plurality of high melt polyester fibers and a plurality of core sheath polyester fibers having a low melt polyester sheath.
13. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 12, wherein the low melt polyester sheath has a melt temperature from about 110°C to about 180°C.
14. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 12, wherein the core sheath polyester fibers comprise from about 40% to about 90% by weight of the fibers forming the nonwoven.
15. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 12, wherein the high melt polyester fibers comprise from about 40% to about 10% by weight of the fibers forming the nonwoven.
16. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 1, wherein the fibers forming the nonwoven comprise a plurality of high melt polyester fibers and a plurality of low melt polyester fibers.
17. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 1, wherein the fibers forming the nonwoven comprise a plurality of high melt polyester fibers and a plurality of core sheath polyester fibers having a low melt polyester sheath.
18. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 17, wherein the low melt polyester sheath has a melt temperature from about 110°C to about 180°C.

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19. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 17, wherein the core sheath polyester fibers comprise from about 40% to about 90% by weight of the fibers forming the nonwoven.

20. (Original) The nonwoven article according to Claim 17, wherein the high melt polyester fibers comprise from about 40% to about 10% by weight of the fibers forming the nonwoven.